

Facts for Teachers

NAEP is an integral part of education in the United States.

- ▶ The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, administers NAEP, a program mandated by Congress. Elected officials, researchers, and policymakers use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.
- ▶ NAEP collects and reports information on student trends and performance at the national, state, and district levels.
- ▶ NAEP data are used by educators and state leaders to compare results with their own state assessments, which may differ widely from state to state.
- ▶ Subject frameworks are developed by the National Assessment Governing Board with input from subject area experts, school administrators, policymakers, parents, and others.

“As an educator, I find the contextual information that NAEP provides to be particularly valuable. It helps me take a closer look at the factors related to student achievement across the country.”

— Ann M. Finch, Dover Middle School, Dover, AR

The **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)** is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our students know and can do in various subjects. NAEP serves a different role than state assessments. States have their own assessments that are designed to provide individual student data about achievement on different content standards. NCES administers the same NAEP assessment in every state. This provides a common measure of achievement that allows for comparisons of achievement to the nation and participating urban districts. The results of NAEP are released to the public as The Nation's Report Card.

As teachers, you are essential partners in NAEP. You make an important contribution by encouraging your students to participate and do their best. When students take part in NAEP and give their best effort, we get the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country.

Teachers promote understanding of what influences student learning. Teachers of students in grades 4 and 8 will be asked to complete a contextual questionnaire to provide a better understanding of students' educational experiences and factors that may be related to learning. After teachers complete the questionnaire online, they can elect to receive a summary of how other teachers responded to the questionnaire. Your NAEP school coordinator is your school's liaison for all NAEP assessment activities and can provide additional guidance and information.

Teachers can use NAEP questions as a resource in the classroom. Teachers can use the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx> to see how their students' performance compares nationally on specific items. Released items generally come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data. Students can try NAEP questions at the NAEP Learning Tree by visiting www.nationsreportcard.gov/students.aspx.

Teachers can watch a NAEP video online that provides an overview of the assessment as well as tips on how to support students selected to participate. Watch it at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/videos/teachervideo>.



It's important to know that...

Assessments will be administered in the following subject areas in 2015:

- Mathematics—Grades 4, 8, and 12
 - Reading—Grades 4, 8, and 12
 - Science—Grades 4, 8, and 12
- Students in some schools will take the traditional paper-and-pencil assessments in these subjects.
- Students in other schools will take pilot technology-based assessments in these subjects. These pilots will be administered on tablets provided by NAEP.

The following special studies will also be conducted in 2015:

- National Indian Education Study—Grades 4 and 8
- Extended Student Questionnaire—Grade 4
- Computer Access and Familiarity Study—Grades 4, 8, and 12

To learn more about these special studies, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/>.

Frameworks guide the development of NAEP assessments. Specific frameworks (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.asp>) define the knowledge and skills to be measured. The National Assessment Governing Board, which oversees and sets policy for NAEP, develops the frameworks. Governors, state legislators, local and state school officials, principals, teachers and education specialists, business representatives, parents, and members of the public make up the 26-member Governing Board.

NAEP causes minimal disruption for teachers and students. No advance preparation for teachers or for students is necessary. Trained NAEP representatives, employed by contractors of NCES, administer NAEP.

Students are asked a variety of questions.

NAEP assessments include multiple-choice and constructed-response questions. Students also

respond to questionnaires regarding a variety of areas such as usage of computers and other technology, reading habits, and the content of their courses. Responses help provide context for the NAEP results.

Each student takes only a portion of the full assessment. Each student will take the NAEP assessment in one subject only. It will take approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete NAEP assessment activities, including transition time and directions.

Participation is very important. Selected students represent the geographic, racial/ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of the nation's schools. While student participation in NAEP is not mandatory and participating students may omit any question, full participation is essential to ensure an accurate picture of student achievement nationwide.

Including all students is essential. To ensure that student achievement is accurately reported, students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL) are encouraged to participate in the NAEP assessments. Many accommodations are allowed during the assessment, such as extended time, breaks during the test, and separate setting. Teachers of SD and ELL students selected for the assessment are asked to provide information to determine how these students will be assessed on NAEP.

NAEP is confidential. No one involved in administering NAEP keeps personal information on teachers or students after the assessments are completed. There are no results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.

How NAEP reports results...

Since 1969, NAEP has produced many reports chronicling trends over time in the performance of 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds and fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students. Information is reported by race/ethnicity, gender, type of school, and by both achievement level and scale scores.

NAEP also disseminates information from data collected on student, teacher, and school contextual questionnaires. This information can be used to inform parents, the public, and education policymakers about our nation's educational environment. You can access data from previous assessments at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata> and explore the most recent results at <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.

Recent NAEP findings...

2013 MATHEMATICS

34% of fourth-graders had teachers who reported spending 7 hours or more on math instruction per week.

50% of eighth-graders had mathematics teachers who reported having a master's degree.

44% of twelfth-graders reported that they had completed pre-calculus or calculus since eighth grade.

2013 READING

33% of fourth-graders reported reading more than 20 pages a day in school and for homework.

47% of eighth-graders had teachers who reported that they majored in English as undergraduates.

33% of twelfth-graders reported discussing different interpretations of what they read in their English class every day or almost every day.

2011 SCIENCE

Almost **70%** of eighth-graders had teachers who asked them to work with other students on a science activity or project at least once a week.





“The NAEP team that arrived at our school made the assessment process painless. Everyone on the team previously worked as an educator and interacted well with all of our students. The technology-based assessment our students took kept them actively engaged throughout the session.”

— Kimberly Wilborn, Assessment Coach, Sandburg Middle School, Alexandria, VA

For more information...

Download NAEP reports, access sample questions, and learn about upcoming assessments at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

Call the NAEP Help Desk at 800-283-6237.

Contact your NAEP school coordinator.

Contact your NAEP state coordinator by visiting <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states>.

View the NAEP teacher video, *Introducing NAEP to Teachers*, at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/schools.asp>.

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Get NAEP on the go with the *NAEP Results* mobile app!

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